

**Improvement to the Appointment System for Clinic:  
A case study in UUM Clinic**

**Shady M.S Hamouda**

**UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA**

**2008**

QA  
3/1/08  
4225

# **Improvement to the Appointment System for Clinic: A case study in UUM Clinic**

A thesis submitted to the Graduate School in partial fulfillment of the  
requirements for the degree Master of Science (Information Technology)  
Universiti Utara Malaysia

By

**Shady M.S Hamouda (89244)**



**KOLEJ SASTERA DAN SAINS**  
**(College of Arts and Sciences)**  
**Universiti Utara Malaysia**

**PERAKUAN KERJA KERTAS PROJEK**  
**(Certificate of Project Paper)**

Saya, yang bertandatangan, memperakukan bahawa  
(I, the undersigned, certify that)

**SHADY M.S HAMOUDA**  
**(89244)**

calon untuk Ijazah  
(candidate for the degree of) **MSc. (Information Technology)**

telah mengemukakan kertas projek yang bertajuk  
(has presented his/her project paper of the following title)

**IMPROVEMENT TO THE APPOINTMENT SYSTEM FOR CLINIC:**  
**A CASE STUDY IN UUM CLINIC**

seperti yang tercatat di muka surat tajuk dan kulit kertas projek  
(as it appears on the title page and front cover of project paper)

bahawa kertas projek tersebut boleh diterima dari segi bentuk serta kandungan  
dan meliputi bidang ilmu dengan memuaskan.  
(that the project paper acceptable in form and content, and that a satisfactory  
knowledge of the field is covered by the project paper).

Nama Penyelia Utama  
(Name of Main Supervisor): **MR. ALI YUSNY DAUD**

Tandatangan  
(Signature)

:

Tarikh  
(Date)

:

11 / 11 / 2008

GRADUATE SCHOOL  
UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA

PERMISSION TO USE

In presenting this thesis in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a postgraduate degree from the Universiti Utara Malaysia, I agree that the University Library may make it freely available for inspection. I further agree that permission for copying of this thesis in any manner in whole or in part, for scholarly purposes may be granted by my supervisor or in their absence by the Dean of the Graduate School. It is understood that any copying or publication or use of this thesis or parts thereof for financial gain shall not be allowed without my written permission. It is also understood that due recognition shall be given to me and to Universiti Utara Malaysia for any scholarly use which may be made of any material from my thesis.

Requests for permission to copy or to make other use of materials in this thesis, in whole or in part, should be addressed to

Dean of Graduate School  
Universiti Utara Malaysia  
06010 UUM Sintok  
Kedah Darul Aman.

## Abstract

Success in emerging new technology can be vital for future prosperity; therefore, any clinic wants to provide high efficiency in presenting its services to patients and implementing efficient interaction activities between its department and patients through clinic online system. Patient services have played essential role in the health care for the society. Patient services and patient waiting time are problems that medical institutions centers faced, because desktop appointment system takes long time for the patient to meet the doctors. As a consequence, the aim of this study is to reduce long waiting time of patients. In actuality, doctor's efficiency will be increased in some certain level. Current appointment system normally runs in hospitals or clinic randomly. The patients who are appointed at the later interval will wait much longer time. The purpose of this research is to reduce the long waiting time through internet to make adjustments patients' appointment number and interval these appointments through internet. Consequently, patients can be able to make appointments through Web/WAP-based applications system service, to improve patient accessing, to enhance patient and physician satisfaction, and to increase practice productivity. Moreover, there is even evidence that promote better outcomes and lower overall costs of care.

## **Acknowledgement**

First of all, I would like to extend my deepest and humble gratitude to my promoter and I am thankful to Mr. Ali Yusny Daud for giving me the chance to conduct My Project under his supervision and the valuable advices and fruitful guides during the period of consultations. This is also to be the window to gain knowledge and competency that he shows to me from his expertise and experience in this scope "Clinic System".

I am very much indebted to my family for helping me to join and register in UUM and for encouraging me to do my master.

I am also thankful to all my friends and staff in UUM, especially from the Faculty of Information Technology for their help, support and encouraging me in my study.

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

### **CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION**

1.1	Introduction	1
1.2	Problem Statement	5
1.3	Research Question	6
1.4	Research Objective	6
1.5	Research Scope	6
1.6	Research Significance	7
1.7	Report Structure	8
1.8	Summary	9

### **CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW**

2.1	Introductions	10
2.2	Problems of Waiting Time	10
2.3	Waiting Time and Consultation Time	13
2.4	Patient Flow into the Clinic	16
2.5	Use internet in the Medical Health Care	19
2.6	Using Web-Based Technology to Reduce Patient's Waiting Time	22
2.7	Improving the Waiting Time of the Patients Research Scope	25
2.8	Description of UUM Clinic Appointment System	27
2.9	Summary	28

### **CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

3.1	Introduction	29
3.2	Research Design Methodology	31
3.3.1	Awareness of Problem	31
3.3.2	Suggestion	32
3.3.3	Development	33
3.3.4	Evaluation	34
3.3.5	Conclusion	35
3.3	Summary	35

3.4

### **CHAPTER 4: APPOINTMENT SYSTEM MODEL**

4.1	Introduction	37
4.2	System Requirements	37
4.3	System Design	40
4.3.1	Use Case Diagram	40
4.3.2	Class Diagram	42
4.4	Flow Control of the Website	43
4.5	Clinic System Interface Design	44

4.5.1 Web-based Interface	44
4.5.2 Home Page	44
4.5.3 Login Page	45
4.5.4 Patients Home Page	47
4.5.5 Make appointment	48
4.5.6 View Appointment	49
4.5.7 Monitor Appointment Queue	50
4.5.8 Receive Notification	51
4.5.9 Doctor Home Page	52
4.5.10 View all patients Appointment	53
4.5.11 Send Notification	55
4.6 Summary	56

## **CHAPTER 5: FINDING “SYSTEM TEST OF CLINIC SYSTEM**

5.1 Introduction	57
5.2 System Testing for Clinic System	57
5.3 Purpose of test case	57
5.4 System Testing For Clinic System	58
5.4.1 Test Case ID: CS-TC 01	58
5.4.2 Test Case ID: CS-TC 02	59
5.4.3 Test Case ID: CS-TC 03	60
5.4.4 Test Case ID: CS-TC 04	61
5.4.5 Test Case ID: CS-TC 05	62
5.4.6 Test Case ID: CS-TC 06	63
5.4.7 Test Case ID: CS-TC 07	64
5.4.8 Test Case ID: CS-TC 08	65
5.4.9 Test Case ID: CS-TC 09	66
5.5 Use Case to System Case Mapping Template	68
5.6 Compare the Current System and the Proposed System In Term of Patients Control Flow	70
5.7 Summary	72

## **CHAPTER 6: CONCLUSION**

6.1 Introduction	73
6.2 Problems and Limitations	75
6.3 Future Work	75
6.4 Conclusion	76

<b>REFERENCES</b>	77
<b>APPENDIX A</b>	82
<b>APPENDIX B</b>	90
<b>APPENDIX C</b>	99
<b>APPENDIX D</b>	110



## **List of Figures**

Figure 2.1: Appointment pattern and arrival frequency	15
Figure 2.2: Arrival frequencies of patients with different appointments	16
Figure 2.3: Patient flow through the visit	17
Figure 2.4: Component of Patient Flow	18
Figure 2.4: Selection of appointment slot	24
Figure 3.1: The General Methodology of Design Research	30
Figure 4.1: Use Case Diagram	41
Figure 4.2: Class Diagram	42
Figure 4.3: Flow Chart of Website	43
Figure 4.4: Home Page.	45
Figure 4.5: Login Page.	46
Figure 4.6: Patients Home Page	47
Figure 4.7: Make appointment	48
Figure 4.8: View Appointment	49
Figure 4.9: Monitor Queue	50
Figure 4.10: Receive Notification	51
Figure 4.11: Doctor Home Page	52
Figure 4.12: View Patients appointments Page	53
Figure 4.13: View details Patients appointments Page	54
Figure 4.14: Send Notification page	55
Figure 5.1: Patient Flow in Randomly System	70

### **List of Tables**

Table 4.1: List of Requirements	38
Table 4.2: Test Case Doctor Login Functionality	58
Table 4.3: Test Case Patients Login Functionality	59
Table 4.4: Test Case makes Appointment Functionality	60
Table 4.5: Test Case View Appointment functionality	61
Table 4.6: Test Case Receive Notification Functionality	62
Table 4.7: Test Case Send Message Functionality	63
Table 4.8: Test Case Monitor Queue Functionality	64
Table 4.9: Test Case view all patients' appointment functionality	65
Table 4.10: Test Case Send Notification functionality	66
Table 4.11: Mapping use case to system case	68

## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Introduction**

With the fast rapidity world people live in, people always look for better, faster, or more convenient ways to enhance their lives. If something makes sense, chances are people will take advantage of it and adapt it to their daily lives within reasonable cost. Obviously, the development of the internet is a perfect example in this electronic age, which has already made a huge impact in virtually every feature of our lives.

However, one of the majority important complaints from the lack of quality and convenience in the health care organization. The major key is to provide a meaningful accessibility and communication between the patients and their doctors in order to build a relationship of trust and reliability. As the world population grows and ages, the demand for health care services grows with it. Therefore, it is so much more essential and important to deal with those needs and attempt to provide a service with ease of use, accessibility, and scalability.

The contents of  
the thesis is for  
internal user  
only

## References

- American Hospital Association.(2007).Improving Patient Flow, Patient Satisfaction and Patient Safety.
- Anderson, R., & Feldman, Barbara.(2007). What Patient's Want: A Content Analysis of Key Qualities That Influence Patient Satisfaction. *Journal of Medical Practice Management*.
- Anderson, RT., Weisman, CS., Scholle, SH., Henderson, JT., Oldendick, R., & Camacho,F.(2002). Evaluation of the quality of care in the clinical care centers of the National Centers of Excellence in Women's Health. *Women's Health Issues*,12, 287–90.
- Andrew, Racine.(2000). Use of a Time-Flow Study to Improve Patient Waiting Times at an Inner-city Academic Pediatric Practice. American Medical Association.  
<http://archpedi.ama-assn.org/cgi/reprint/156/12/1203.pdf>
- Andy Press.(2001). How Online Patient Scheduling And Automated Appointment Reminders Can Help Doctors?,  
[http://www.content4reprint.com/business/business\\_opportunities/medical-practice-101-how-online-patient-scheduling-and-automated\\_appointment-reminders-can-help-doctors.htm](http://www.content4reprint.com/business/business_opportunities/medical-practice-101-how-online-patient-scheduling-and-automated_appointment-reminders-can-help-doctors.htm) .
- Athula, Wijewickrama., & Soemon, Takakuwa.(2006) . Simulation Analysis Of An Outpatient Department Of Internal Medicine In A University Hospital.  
*Proceedings of the 2006 Winter Simulation Conference*.
- Broderick, Meg.(2003). D.H. Smaltz: E-Health defined.
- Cem, Kaner.(2003). What Is a Good Test Case?. Department of Computer Sciences.
- Croft, DR., & Peterson, MW. (2002). An evaluation of the quality and contents of asthma education on the World Wide Web. 121,1301–1307.
- David, Pate., & Michael, Puffe. (2007). Improving Patient Flow.  
[http://www.stockamp.com/newsfiles/1181679391638/1181679391654/Physician%20Executive%20Improving%20Patient%20Flow%205\\_07.pdf](http://www.stockamp.com/newsfiles/1181679391638/1181679391654/Physician%20Executive%20Improving%20Patient%20Flow%205_07.pdf)
- Eysenbach, G.(2001).What is e-health?. *Journal of Medical Internet Research*,3(2),e20,  
<http://www.jmir.org/2001/2/e20/>.
- Feenberg, A., & Licht, J. & Kane, K. & Moran, K. & Smith, R.(1996). The online patient meeting. *Journal of the Neurological Science*,139 ,129-131.

- Fox, S., & Rainie, L.(2000). Pew Internet and American Life Project. Pew Research Center for People and the Press. (Vol 2001). Washington, DC: Pew Charitable Trust.
- Francis, G., Belardi, Weir., & Francis, Craig.(2004). A Controlled Trial of an Advanced Access Appointment System in a Residency Family Medicine Center,36 (5).
- Guo, M., M. Wagner., & C, West. (2004). Outpatient clinic scheduling a simulation approach. *In Proceedings of the Winter Simulation Conference*, Washington, D.C. Retrieved October 15, 2008, from [www.informs.org/wsc04papers/265.pdf](http://www.informs.org/wsc04papers/265.pdf).
- Hai, Nguyen.(2000). SchedNetTM, a 24-hour Internet Patient Scheduling System. Retrieved August 20, 2008, from <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/iel5/6348/16959/00781264.pdf>
- Harper, P. R., & Gamlin, H.M. (2003). Reduced Outpatient Waiting Times with Improved Appointment Scheduling: a Simulation Modeling Approach. *Spectrum*, 25(2), pp. 207-222.
- Hjortdahl, P., Nylenna, M., & Gerlow, Aasland. (1999). Internet to glege-pasient forholdet Tidsskr Norsk Laegeforening, 119 (29), 4339-4341.
- Ho, C.J., and Lau, H.S. (1999). Evaluating the impact of operating conditions on the performance of appointment scheduling rules in service systems. *European Journal of Operational Research*, (112). 542-553.
- Hoch, D., Norris, D., Lester, J., & Marcus, A. (1999). Information exchange in epilepsy forum on the World Wide Web. <http://www.idealibrary.com> printed 2000-03-20.
- Ibrahim, Erdem., Tufan, Demirel., & Semih, onut.(2001) . An Efficient Appointment System Design For Outpatient Clinic Using Computer Simulation. Retrieved August 7, 2008, from <http://www.scs.org/getDoc.cfm?id=1781>.
- Jamaiah, Sharif., & Suriani, Sukeri. (2003). Study on waiting time at the paediatric dental clinic, Kuala Lumpur Hospital. *Journal of Quality Improvement*, 7(1), 19 – 23.
- James, Gubb. (2007). Waiting times in the NHS. CIVITAS Institute for the Study of Civil Society 2007.
- Jason, Charvat .(2002). Rational Rose simplifies software development, Retrieved October 9, 2008, from [http://articles.techrepublic.com.com/5100-10878\\_111049781.html](http://articles.techrepublic.com.com/5100-10878_111049781.html).

- Krueger, KP., Felkey, BG., & Berger, BA.(2003). Improving adherence and persistence: a review and assessment of interventions and description of steps toward a national adherence initiative. *J Am Pharm Assoc (Wash DC)*. Nov Dec;43(6),668-78; quiz 78-9.
- Leddy, KM, Kaldenberg, DO., & Becker, BW.(2003).Timeliness in ambulatory care treatment. An examination of patient satisfaction and wait times in medical practices and outpatient test and treatment Facilities. *J Ambul Care Manage*, 26,138–149.
- Liu, L., & X, Liu .(1998). Block Appointment System Outpatient Clinics with Multiple Doctors. *Journal of the Operational Research Society*, 49, 1254-1259.
- Luis, Anido-Rifon., Fernando, Agelet., & Olga, Artime. (2001). A Web-based Management Tool for Health Care Services with Appointment Required.
- Marconi, Jennifer.(2002). E-Health: Navigating the Internet for Health Information Healthcare, Advocacy White Paper. Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society.
- Martin, R.M., Sterne, J.A.C., Gunnell, D., Ebrahim, S., Davey Smith, G., & Frankel, S. (2003). NHS waiting lists and evidence of national or local failure: analysis of health service data. *BMJ* (326:7382), January 25, 2003. 188-209.
- McManus, M.L., Long, M.C., Cooper, A., Mandell, J., Berwick, D.M., Pagano, M., & Litvak, E. (2003). Variability in Surgical Caseload and Access to Intensive Care Services, *Anesthesiology*, 98(6).
- Mohamad, bin. Abdul. Rahman. (2004). Quality Management : Current Challenges In Patient Care Services .
- Moore, C.G., Wilson-Witherspoon, P., & Probst, J.C. (2001). Time and money: Effects of no-shows at a family practice residency clinic. *Family Medicine* , 33(7), 522-527.
- Murdock, A., Rodgers, C., Lindsay, H., & Tham, T.C.K.(2002). Why do patients not keep their appointments? Prospective study in a gastroenterology outpatient clinic. *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*, (95), 284-286.
- Murray, Cote.(2000). Understanding Patient Flow. Trinity University.
- Murray, Cote. (2006). Workshop on Healthcare Systems Engineering. Virginia: Arlington.

- Nainil, Chheda.(2006).Health Care Strategist. USA:  
[http://www.nainil.com/research/#Research\\_Interests](http://www.nainil.com/research/#Research_Interests).
- Randolph, Hall. (2006). Patient Flow: Reducing Delay in Healthcare Delivery. USA:  
University of Southern California.
- Reents, S.( 2000). Impacts of the Internet on the Doctor-Patient Relationship: The Rise  
of the Internet Health Consumer. [www.cyberdialogue.com/pdfs/wp/wp-cch-1999-doctors.pdf](http://www.cyberdialogue.com/pdfs/wp/wp-cch-1999-doctors.pdf).
- Revere, D., & Dunbar, PJ. (2001). Review of computer-generated outpatient health  
behavior interventions: clinical encounters "in absentia". *J Am Med Inform Assoc*,8(1),62-79.
- Ronald, Giachetti., Edwin, Centeno., Martha, Centeno., & Ramakrishnan, Sundaram.  
(2005). assessing the viability of an open access policy in an outpatient clinic: a  
discrete event and continuous simulation modeling approach . *Proceedings of the  
2005 Winter Simulation Conference*.
- Ross, J., Chapman, C., Murray, C., Stevenson, M., Natin, D., & Rogstad, K.(2000). How  
much interest is the internet to patients?.
- Sheila, Nelson., & Gordon, Lang. (2002). Using an Internet-based system to manage  
patient records.
- Smith, J. (1998). "Internet Patients" Turn to Support Groups to Guide Medical  
Decisions. *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, (90), 1695-1697.
- Tuso, P.J., Murtishaw, K., & Tadros, W.(1999). The easy access program: A way to  
reduce patient no-show rate, decrease add-ons to primary care schedules, and  
improve patient satisfaction. *The Permanente Journal*, 3(3).
- Vaishnavi, V., & Kuechler, B. (2006). Design Research in information system.  
Retrieved March 15, 2007, from  
<http://www.isworld.org/Researchdesign/drisISworld.htm>
- Wijewickrama, A. A., & Takakuwa, S. (2006). Simulation Analysis of an Outpatient  
Department of Internal Medicine in a University Hospital.
- Worley, MM., & Schommer, JC. (1999).Pharmacist Patient Relationship: Factors  
Influencing Quality and Commitment.
- Yue, ZHOU., Jiahua, LI., & Fukuya, Ishino.(2007). Re-building a New Algorithm of the  
Out-patient Appointment System to Reduce Long Waiting-time—a Case Study,  
*Proceedings of the 2006 Winter Simulation Conference*, Monterey, CA.



Zielinski, K., Radziszowski D., & Rzepa, P.(2002). Access to medical databases through Internet tools - International Conference on Telemedicine, Jabłonna.

Ulrika, Josefson., & Ole, Hanseth.(2000). Patients' Use of Medical Information on the Internet: Opportunities and Challenges. Some preliminary findings. *In Proceedings from 23th Information Systems Research Seminar in Scandinavia*